



Regional Service Council Minutes Region 8

Meeting Date: December 4, 2006

Meeting Location: Vigo County DCS
30 N. 8th Street
Terre Haute, IN 47803

Council Members Present: Mike Baker, Vigo County DCS Supervisor; Glenn Cardwell, Vigo County Director; Susan Lesko, Acting Regional Manager, Region 8; Katie Edington, Parke/Vermillion County Director; Diana Thomson, Clay County FCM; Pamela Connelly, Clay/Sullivan County Director

Council Members Absent: Susan Marcum, Parke County Foster Parent; Director, Hon. Robert Pell, Clay; Hon. P. J. Pierson, Sullivan; Hon. Paulette Stagg, Vigo; Hon. Bruce Stengel, Vermillion; Hon. Sam Swaim, Parke.

Others in Attendance: Nyala Bolen, Friends of Family; Nancy Edgerton, Hamilton Center; Peggy Smothers, Hamilton Center; Penny Pitcock, Dodson & Shively; Peggy Weber, ISU; Heidi Wheeler, Clay/Vigo County Supervisor; Katie Walker, ISU Intern

<h3>Meeting Minutes</h3>

Meeting Called to Order at: 10:00 A.M.

Susan Lesko welcomed attendees and led the introductions. Minutes were reviewed and no additions or corrections were noted. It was reported that Diana Lancaster, CASA, from Clay County resigned. Susan asked that suggestions for a CASA or GAL to replace Diana be sent to her. Susan Marcum, foster parent representative, is to be contacted by Donna to find out if she wants to continue in her position on the Council.

Agenda items were discussed as follows.

1. Community Partners Update

Nyala stated that she had not received a signed contract yet and when could she expect to receive one. She stated that in order to subcontract staff for the referrals, she needs to know that the funds are accessible.

Nyala stated that she has had four families referred. There was a discussion as to if we want to track whether those referred follow up with Nyala.

The KFC program was discussed as to what counties are involved and the scope of a proposal that had submitted for this program. Glenn felt Vigo was moving toward the Family Collaborative Program. Clay County uses the KFC program for specifically targeted children. Nyala reiterated that again it is a matter of funding and the need to have the signed contracts in hand before commitments can be made to a program.

2. IV-B Update

Penny stated that her focus had been on the new referral form. It was developed for the notebooks; clericals are having difficulty with the form because they use an older version of Excel. In 2007, the form should become available in ICWIS. Contact Penny with any issues. Penny reported that resources should have received the vouchers and that contracts are done.

3. Adoption Support Group

Peggy Smothers from Hamilton Center presented information on the Adoption Support Group that they offer. They provide support services and respite to maintain the placement. Janet Strole is the lead case manager and facilitates the group. One of the most valuable pieces at the group meeting is the question and answer session. Anyone can attend the support group without a referral. Home based support and respite require a referral.

4. Foster Parent Recruiting

Discussion was held on the use of bonus money as an incentive for recruiting. The issue is tabled until the next meeting to give Directors an opportunity to go back and talk to their staffs.

5. Early Intervention Plan

Susan, Pam, Katie and Glenn will meet on December 11, 2006 at 9:00 A.M. to draft a Region 8 Early Intervention Plan.

6. Regional Strategic Plan for 2007

Before any proposal can be submitted for Child Welfare Services funds, a Strategic Plan must be submitted demonstrating that there is a gap in services and that those funds will be used to fill the gap. Susan distributed handouts of examples/criteria for the strategic plan. Susan, Pam, Katie and Glenn will draft a Strategic Plan when they meet on December 11, 2006. It will be submitted to the Council at the next Regional Services Council meeting.

Pam Connelly asked the Council to approve three programs that is funded from Clay County; a truancy program for \$24,000; a sex offender program for \$20,000; and a literacy program for \$24,000. The Council approved pending Susan's review.

7. Final Regional Services Council Protocol

Susan distributed the final draft of the Regional Services Council Protocol.

8. Additional Business

Peggy Weber stated that the Interns are on semester break. If a unique opportunity arises in the counties that it is a good idea for them to attend if possible. The next semester starts on January 8, 2007. Students will again be in class on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They are to be in the county 20 hours each week and those hours can be on Monday, Wednesday or Friday. The issue of the Intern's flexibility and the inability to follow through because of how their days are scheduled was voiced.

Next Meeting Date, Location and Time: The next meeting will be held on January 26, 2007 at 9:30 A.M. in the second floor conference room.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 A.M.